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If this Congregation be considered in her parts, it shall appeare most beautifull, yea wonderfull, and even (a) ravishing the senses to conceive, much more to behold, what then to enjoy so blessed a communion! for behold her (b) King and Lord, is the King of peace, and Lord of glory: She enjoyeth holy and heavenly (c) Lawes, faithfull and vigilant Pastors,

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(e) Rom 12.7. (f) 1 Cor. 12, 28. Rom. 12, 8. (g) Act. 6. Chap. (h) Ro. 12, 8. (i) 1 Pet 2.5. Zech. 14. 21. (k) Gal. 6. 2. (l) 1 Cor. 12 Chap. (m) Heb. 10. 24. 1 Thes. 4, 9. Col. 3. 23. 1 Iohn 3, 20. (a) 2 Cor. 2. 17. (b) 1 Tim. 4, 2, 3, & 5, 19. & 6 14. (c) 1 Cor. 5. (d) Ier. 23, 28 1 Tim. 3, 15. (e) 1 Cor 6, & 14, 30. Col. 4. 17. (a) Ioh. 10. 1 Act. 1, 23, & 6, 3, & 14, 23. (a) 1 Tim. 4, 14, & 5, 22. (b) Lu. 17, 3. Rom 16, 17. Coll. 4. 17. (a) Mat. 5. 19. 1 Tim. 1, 18. (b) Mal. 2, 7. 1 Tim. 3, 1. (c) 2 Tim. 2. 15. (d) Tit. 1, 9. 2 Tim. 4. 2.

ſincere and pure (e) Teachers, carefull and upright Elder diligent and truſty (g) Deacons, loving and ſober (h) Relee vers, humble, meeke, obedient, faithfull and loving people every (i) ſtone living, elect and precious, having his beautie his (k) burden, and his (l) order, all bound to (m) edify one another, exhort, admoniſh, reprove, encourage, and comfor one another; loving as to the members of their own natur body, faithfull as in the ſight and preſence of *God*.

No (a) Office here muſt be ambitiouſly affected, no (b) la wrongfully wreſted, or (c) willfully neglected; no (d) tru hid or perverted, (e) every one here hath freedom and pow (not diſturbing the peaceable order of the Congregatio to utter his complaints and grieſes, and freely to reprove t tranſgreſſion and errors of any without exception of perſo

Here is no intruſion or climing up another way into t Sheepfold, then (a) by the holy and free election of the Lo holy and free people, and that according to the Lords or nance, humbling themſelves by faſting and prayer before Lord, craving the direction of his holy Spirit, for the tr and approving of their gifts, &c.

Thus they proceed to ordination, by faſting and prayer, which action the (a) Apoſtles, or firſt Meſſengers of *Chriſt*) uſing laying on of hands, thus hath every one of people intereſt in the election and ordination of their Offic as alſo in the adminiſtration of their Offices, upon (b) tr greſſion, offence, abuſe, &c. having a ſpeciall care unto unviolable order of the Congregation, as is aforeſaid.

In this Congregation they have holy (a) lawes as limits bonds, which are to be put in execution, that they may preciſely kept, and at no hand tranſgreſſed. Theſe La are ſo compleat, that they direct them in all things, eſpeci in the choyce of every Officer, what kind of men they have, and how they muſt be qualified. Their Paſtor m be apt to (b) teach, no young Scholler, (c) able to divide word of *God* aright (d) holding faſt that faithfull word truth, that he may be able to informe, exhort, admoniſh rebuke with wholſome Doctrine, and to convince thoſe oppoſe it. He muſt be a man that loveth goodnes, of

report, wife, having children under obedience, he must be unreprovable as Gods Steward; one that ruleth his owne Household well, least he be unfit to rule the Congregation of *God*: He must be modest, humble, meeke, gentle, and loving: He must be a man of great patience, compassion, labour, and dilligence; He must alwaies be carefull and watchfull over the flock whereof the Lord hath made him an Overseer, with all willingnes and cheerefulnesse, not holding his Office in respect of persons, but doing his duty to every soule committed to his charge, as he will answere to the chiefe Pastor of our Soules in the great day of his accounts.

Num. 12. 3. 7
Isa. 50. 4, 5, 6. Ier. 3. 15.
Ezech. 34. 18.
Act. 20.
1 Pet. 5. 1, 2, 3, 4.
1 Tim. 5, 6.

1. Their Teachers also must be apt to teach, able to divide the word of *God* aright: He must be mighty in the Scriptures, able to convince the gainesayers, and carefull to deliver his Doctrine, pure, sound, and plaine, not with curiosity or affectation, but so that it may edify the most simple, approving it to every mans conscience: He must be holy in his conversation, one that can governe his own Household: He must be sober, humble, temperate, modest, gentle and loving, &c. 1 *Tim.* 3 Chap. *Tit.* 1. ch. 2 *Tim.* 2. 15. 1 *Cor.* 1. 17, and 2, 4.

Their Elders must be of wisedom and judgement, indued with the Spirit of *God*, able to discerne betweene cause, and cause, and accordingly to prevent and redresse evils, alwaies vigilant, and endeavoring to see the statutes, ordinances, and lawes of *God*, kept and executed in the Church; and that not onely by all the particular members for their part of obedience, but that they also see the Officers do their duties.

These Officers must be likewise unreprovable in their conversation, governing their own Families orderly; they must also be sober, gentle, modest, loving, temporate, &c. *Num.* 11. 24. 2 *Chron.* 19. 8. *Act.* 15. *Chap.* 1 *Tim.* 3. and 5. *Chap.*

2. Their Deacons must be men of honest report, having the mysterie of faith in a pure conscience, and indued with the holy Spirit; they must be grave, temperate, not given to excesse, nor to filthy lucre. *Acts* 6. 3, 1. *Tim.* 3. 8, 9.

Their Widdowes or Releevers must be Women of 60 yeares of age at the least, for avoyding of inconveniences; they must be well reported of for good workes, such as have nourished

nouriſhed their Children, ſuch as have been harborours to ſtrangers: diligent and ſerviceable to the Saints, compaſſionate and helpfull to them in adverſity, given to every good worke, continuing in ſupplications and prayers, day and night. 1 *Tim.* 5. 9, 10.

Theſe Officers muſt firſt be duly proved, then if they be found blameleſſe, let them adminiſter &c. 1 *Tim.* 3. 10.

Now as the perſons gifts, conditions, manners, life, and proofe of theſe Officers, are ſet downe by the holy Spirit, ſo are their Offices limited, ſevered, and diverſe. 1 *Cor.* 12. 1[2]. 18. 28.

The Paſtors Office is to feed the Sheepe of *Chriſt*, in the greene and wholeſome Paſtures of his bleſſed word, and lead them to the ſtill waters, even to the pure fountaine and river of life: He muſt guide and keep thoſe Sheep, by that heavenly Sheepe-hooke and Paſtorall ſtaffe of the word of truth, thereby drawing them to him, thereby looking into their Soules, even into their moſt ſecret thoughts, thereby diſcerning their diſeaſes, and thereby curing them, applying to every diſeaſe, a fit and convenient medicine, and according to the quality and danger of the diſeaſe, giving warning to the Church, that they may orderly proceed in all the Cenſures of Excommunication: Further, he muſt by this Sheep-hooke watch over and defend his Flock from ravenous Beaſts, as the Wolfe, and take the little Foxes, &c. *Pſal.* 23. *Lev.* 1[0], 11. *Numb.* 18. 1. *Ezech.* 44, 23, and 33, and 34. *Ioh.* 1[0]. 15. *Act.* 20. 28, 1. *Pet.* 5. 1, 4. *Zach.* 11. 7. *Rev.* 2[2]. *Luk.* 12. 42. 2 *Cor.* 10. 4, 5. *Heb.* 4. 12. *Ioh.* 10. 11, 12. *Sol.* 2. 15.

The Teachers Office being already deſcribed, his ſpecial care muſt be to build upon the onely true ground-worke Gold, Silver, and pretious ſtones, that his work may indure the tryall of the fire, and by the light of the ſame fire, reveale the Timber, Hay, and Stubble, of falſe and corrupt teachers: he muſt take diligent heed to keepe the Church from error. And further, he muſt deliver his Doctrine ſo plainely, ſimply and purely, that the Church may be edified, and grow up to him which is the head, *Chriſt Jeſus.* 1 *Cor.* 3. 11, 12.

10. 10. *Ezech.* 23. 1, 2, &c. and 44, 24. *Mal.* 2. 6. 1 *Cor.* 3, 11. and 1. 17. 1 *Tim.* 4, 16, and 6, 20. *Ephes.* 2. 20. *Heb.* 6. 1. 1 *Pet.* 2. 2.

The Office of the Elders being expreſſed in their deſcription; their ſpeciall care muſt bee as well to ſee the ordinances of *God* truely taught and adminiſtred, as well by the Preaching Elders, according to their duty, as that the remnant members of the Church, performe their parts of obedience willingly and readily: It is their duty to ſee the Congregation holily and quietly ordered, and no way diſturbed, by the contentious, diſobedient, froward, and obſtinate, yet not taking away the libertie of the leaſt, who ſtand for the maintenance of the truth once given to the Saints, but upholding the right of all, and wiſely judging of times and circumſtances. They muſt be ready aſſiſtants to the Paſtor and Teachers, helping to beare their burden, but not intruding into their Office. *Num.* 11. 16. *Deut.* 1. 13. and 16. 18. 2 *Chron.* 19. 8. *Exod.* 39, 42. 1 *Tim.* 3. 15. 2 *Tim.* 1, 13. 1 *Cor.* 11. 16, and 14, 33. *Gal.* 2. 4, 5, 14. *Col.* 4. 16. 17. *Act.* 20. 1 *Pet.* 5, 1. *Rom.* 12. 8.

The Deacons Office is, faithfully to gather and collect (by the ordinance of the Congregation) the good and benevolence of the faithfull, and by the ſame direction, diligently and truſtily, to diſtribute them according to the neceſſitie of the Saints: further, they muſt enquire and conſider of the proportion of the wants, both of the Officers, and other poore Saints, and accordingly relate unto the Church, that proviſion and releefe may be made in due time, according to the Churches power, and their neceſſitie. *Act.* 6. *Rom.* 12. 8.

The Widowes Office is to miniſter to the ſick, lame, weary, and diſeaſed, ſuch helpfull comforts, and refreſhments, as be moſt needfull, by watching, attending, and helping them at all times, eſpecially when they can leaſt help themſelves: likewiſe they muſt ſhew good example to the younger women, in ſober, modeſt. and godly converſation, avoyding idlenes, vaine talke, and light behaviour. *Rom.* 12. 8. 1 *Tim.* 5, 9, &c.

Theſe Officers though they be diverſe and ſeverall, yet are they not ſevered, leaſt there ſhould be a diviſion in the body,

but

but they are as members of the naturall body, having the same care one of another, joyntly doing their severall duties in their places, to the service of the Saints, and to the edification of the mysticall body of *Jesus Christ*, untill we all meet together in unitie of faith unto a perfect measure of the fulnes of *Christ*, by whom all the body being thus coupled and knit together, every joynt for the furniture thereof, according to the effectuall power, which is in the measure of every part receiveth increase of the body, unto the edifying of it selfe in love, neither can any of these Offices be wanting without grievous lameneſſe, and apparant deformity of the body, yea violent injury to the head *Christ Jesus*. *Luk* 9. 46, 47, 48. *Joh.* 13. 12.--17. 1 *Cor.* 12. 12, 25, 28. *Epheſ.* 4. 11. 12. 13. In this Church is the heavenly harmony of the exercise of Prophecy, where the variety and diversity of Gods gifts and graces in his Saints are manifested, according to the gifts and abilities, that *God* hath given unto them, to the mutuall edification, exhortation, and comfort, one of another, and the rest of the body. *Num.* 11. 27, 28, 29. *Act.* 13, 15. And the whole, 1 *Cor.* 14. Which exercise of Prophecy, is the first ordinance that the Lord commanded, and commended in his Church, under the Gospel, exhorting all his Saints to the same, as the most speciall and excellent gift, yea, and most needfull at all times, but especially when the Pastor and Teacher are either taken away by death, imprisoned or exiled.

Thus this heavenly Army of the militant Saints is Marshalled here on earth by these officers, under the conduct of their most glorious and great Generall *Iesus Christ*, that victorious *Michael*: thus it Marcheth in this most heavenly order and gracious array against all enemies both corporall and spirituall, peaceable in it selfe as Jerusalem, terrible to the enemy as an Army with Banners, triumphing over their tyranny with patience, over their cruelty with meeknes, & over death it self by rejoycing in suffering, with joy unspeakable and glorious. Thus through the blood of that spotles Lamb, & that word of their testimony, they are more then conquerors, bruising the head of the Serpent, yea through the power of his word they have power to cast down Satan like lightning, to tread up-

and Scorpions, to caſt downe ſtrong holds, and every high thing that exalteth it ſelfe againſt *God*, and his bleſſed Son *Ieſus Chriſt*. The gates of Hell, and all the principalities and powers in the world, ſhall not prevaile againſt it. *Rom.* 12. 1 *Cor.* 12. *Reve.* 14. 1, 2. *Song* 6. 3. *Reve.* 12. 11. *Luk* 10. 18, 19. 2 *Cor.* 10, 5. *Math.* 16, 18. *Ro* 8. 38, 39.

Moreover he hath given to them the keyes of the Kingdom that whatſoever they bind on earth, according to his word, ſhall be bound in heaven, and whatſoever they looſe on earth, ſhall be looſed in heaven. *Mat.* 16, 19. *Ioh.* 20, 23. *Mat.* 18. 18.

Now this power which *Chriſt* hath given to his Church, and to every member thereof to keep it in order, he hath not left it to their diſcretions, and luſts to be uſed or neglected, nor yet made more, leſſe, or otherwiſe as they will, but in his laſt will and teſtament, he hath ſet down both an order of proceeding and an end to which it is uſed. *Math.* 16. 16, 19, and 18, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 28, 20. *Deut.* 12, 31, 32. *Reve.* 22, 18. 19.

If the fault be private, holy and loving admonition and reproofe is to be uſed, with an earneſt deſire and inward care to win their Brother, but if he will not heare, yet to take two or three other Brethren with him, whom he knoweth to be moſt meet for that purpoſe, that by the mouth of two or three witneſſes, every word might be confirmed: and if he refuſe to heare them, then to declare the matter to the Church, which ought (in love to *God*, and the party, and hated to the ſin) ſharply to reprehend, gravely to admoniſh, and lovingly to perſwade the party offending ſhewing him the haynouſnes of his offence, and the danger of his obſtinacie, and the fearefull judgements of the Lord, *Leve.* 19. 17. 18. *Math.* 18. 15. *Deut.* 19. 15. *Math.* 18. 16.

Notwithſtanding all this, the Church is not to hold him as an enemy, but pray for him as a Brother, and exhort him with the Spirit of meekeneſſe, proving if at any time the Lord will give him repentance, and bring him out of the ſnare of the Divel: for this power is not given them to the deſtruction of any, but to the edification of all, 2 *Theſ.* 3. 15. 2. *Cor.* 10. and 13, 10.

If this prevaile not to draw him to repentance, then are they in the nam
power of the Lord Jesus, with the whole Congregation, reverently in prayer
ceed to excommunication, that is, to the casting of him out of their Congre
and Fellowship, covenant and protection of the Lord, for his disobedience, a
stinacy, and committing him to Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, that the
may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus, if it be his good will and pleasure.
18. 17. 1 Cor. 5. 11.

Then they are to warne the whole Congregation, and all other fruitfull peo
hold him as a Heathen, and publican, and to abstaine themselves from his soci
not to eate or drink with him, &c. unlesse it be those which of necessity must
as his Wife, Children, and Family: yet these (as well as others if they be mem
the Church) are not to joyne with him in any spiritual exercise. Mat. 18. 17, 1 C

If the offence be publik, the party is publikly to be reproved and admonished
then repent not, to proceed to excommunication as aforesaid. 1 Tim. 5. 20.
14. Iosh. 7, 19, 2 Cor. 7. 9.

The repentance of the party must be proportionable to the Offence, that is,
Offence be publik, the repentance must be publike; if private, the repentance
private, humble, submissive, sorrowfull, unfained, giving glory to the Lor
19. 17, 18, Pro. 10. 12. Rom. 12. 19, and 13, 10, and 14, 1.

There must be great care had of admonitions and reprehensions, that the
captious, or curious, finding fault where none is, neither yet in bitternesse or
nor deridingly to insult, as if themselves were without fault, for that were to
rather then save our Brother, but they must be carefully done with prayer g
fore, they must be seasoned with truth, gravity, love and peace. Math. 18,
16, 8. Gal. 6, 1, 2. 2 Tim. 2, 24. Mark 9, 50. Ephes. 4, 29, Iam. 5, 1

Moreover in this Church is a speciall care to be had of offences, the stro
not to offend the weake, nor the weake to judge the strong, but all graces
given to the service and edification of each other in love, and long sufferi
17, 1 Pro. 10 12. Rom. 14, 13, 19. Gal. 6, 2.

In this Congregation though it consist but of two or three, is the wor
purely taught, & surely kept, here is the Covenant, the seales, and promises, t
the glory, the presence, the worship of God &c. Gen. 17. ch. Lev. 26. 1
44, 3, Gal. 4, 28, and 6, 16. Isa, 60, 15, Deut. 4, 12, 13, Isa, 56. 7. 1 Ti
Isa. 52, 8.

So into this blessed Church which is heaven upon earth, there ought no
any uncleane thing, and if any creep in and be discovered, to be speedily
neither whatsoever worketh abhominations or lyes ought to enter, but eo
be of holy conversation, and whose names are written in the Lambs bo
Isa. 52, 1, Ezek, 44, 9. Isay 32, 8, Zach, 14, 21, Reve. 21 27.

But without this Congregation and heavenly society shall be Dogs and e
and Whoremongers, and murderers, and Idolaters, and whosoever loveth a
lyes. Rom. 2, 9, Reve. 22, 15.

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the good of Gods people, which desire that
Christ may raigne in his own
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If this prevaile not to draw him to repentance, then are they in the nam
power of the Lord Jesus, with the whole Congregation, reverently in prayer t
ceed to excommunication, that is, to the casting of him out of their Congreg
and Fellowship, covenant and protection of the Lord, for his disobedience. a
stinacy, and committing him to Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, that the
may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus, if it be his good will and pleasure.
28. 17. 1 Cor: 5. 11.

Then they are to warne the whole Congregation, and all other fruitfull peo
hold him as a Heathen, and publican, and to abstaine themselves from his socie
not to eate or drink with him, &c. unlesse it be those which of necessity must
as his Wife, Children, and Family: yet these (as well as others if they be memb
the Church) are not to joyne with him in any spiritual exercise Mat. 18. 17, 1 Co

If the offence be publik, the party is publikly to be reproved and admonished
then repent not, to proceed to excommunication as aforesaid. 1 Tim. 5. 20.
14. Iosh. 7, 19, 2 Cor. 7. 9.

The repentance of the party must be proportionable to the Offence, that is,
Offence be publik, the repentance must be publike; if private, the repentance m
private, humble, submissive, sorrowfull, unfained, giving glory to the Lord
19. 17, 18, Pro. 10. 12. Rom. 12. 19, and 13, 10, and 14, 1.

There must be great care had of admonitions and reprehensions, that they
captious, or curious, finding fault where none is neither yet in bitternesse or re
nor deridingly to insult, as if themselves were without fault, for that were to
rather then save our Brother, but they must be carefully done with prayer go
fore, they must be seasoned with truth, gravity, love and peace. Math. 18,
16, 8. Gal. 6, 1, 2. 2 Tim. 2, 24. Mark 9, 50. Ephes. 4, 29, Iam. 5, 15.

Moreover in this Church is a speciall care to be had of offences, the stron
not to offend the weake, nor the weake to judge the strong, but all graces
given to the service and edification of each other in love, and long suffering
17, 1 Pro. 10 12. Rom. 14, 13, 19. Gal. 6, 2.

In this Congregation though it consist but of two or three, is the word
purely taught, & surely kept, here is the Covenant, the seales, and promises, the
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